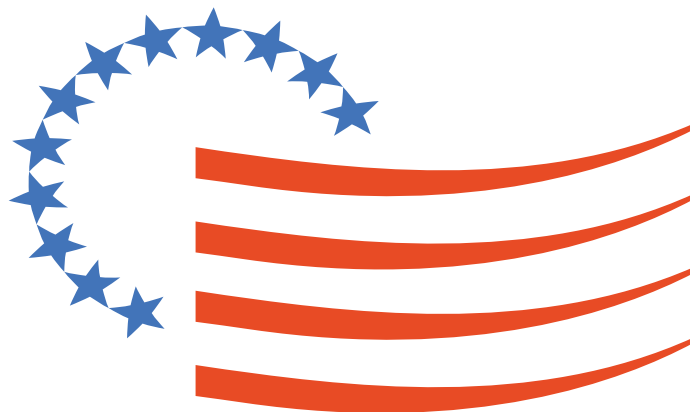




Who votes?



When George Washington was elected as the first president in 1789, only 6 percent of the U.S. population could vote. In most of the original 13 states, only landowning men over the age of 21 had the right to vote.

Today, the U.S. Constitution guarantees that all U.S. citizens over the age of 18 can vote in federal (national), state and local elections.

- THE ONLY ELECTED FEDERAL OFFICIALS ARE THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS—THE 435 MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE 100 SENATORS.



Which public officials are elected?

The U.S. Constitution sets the requirements for holding federal office, but each of the 50 states has its own constitution and its own rules for state offices.

For example, governors in most states serve four-year terms, but in other states the governor is elected for only two years. Voters in some states elect judges, while in others judges are appointed to office. States and localities elect thousands of public officials—from governors and state legislators to school board members and even dogcatchers.

The only elected federal officials are the president and vice president, and members of Congress—the 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the 100 senators.